FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COSTA RICA

BOMB EXPLODES IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING

PA291624 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] San Jose, 29 Jun 83 (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Judicial Investigation Organization believes that the bodies scattered around a vehicle where a powerful bomb exploded this morning belong to two unidentified persons. Today, at 0820 local time (1420 GMT), this capital's downtown sector was shaken by an explosion in an automobile with Nicaraguan plates. For 52 hours the vehicle had been in a "parking lot" in front of the Interior Ministry building.

The location of the blast is 100 meters from ACAN-EFE's office. The whole sector was blacked out and the streets were covered by shattered glass from windows. Most of the buildings are several stories high. Two other people were wounded, one of them seriously. Doctors caring for this man fear he may die.

ARDE Militants Attacked

PA291653 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] San Jose, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Spokesmen for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) have identified the Nicaraguan who died in this morning's terrorist attack in this capital as 35-year-old Rodrigo Cuadra, an active member of this organization opposed to the Sandinist regime.

The seriously wounded individual, whose life is in serious danger, is Francisco Morales Leal, also a member of the alliance directed by Alfonso Robelo and Commander Eden Pastora.

Panfilo Chavarria Fallas, a 25-year-old Costa Rican, was also wounded, but it was not necessary to hospitalize him since he was affected more by shock than by the wounds he received while walking near the site of the explosion this morning. ARDE leaders believe that the attack, which occurred at 1420 this morning, is a warning to the alliance leaders.

President Monge Comments

PA291630 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1512 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Interview with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge in San Jose by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Citizens were shaken this morning by a terrorist attack which resulted in the death of a person. We would like your opinion on this regrettable incident.

[Monge] I only know what I heard on the radio from the moment the explosion occurred. I understand that a parked vehicle exploded. I am trying to get some information from civil guardsmen here in order to give you a better opinion.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about deplorable terrorist actions?

[Monge] We've always condemned terrorism. The Costa Rican people also condemn it. There are no political colors when it comes to an opinion on this: we all condemn it. I don't believe any Costa Rican advocates terrorist methods. If there were any they would be defying the Costa Ricans' sentiments and nature.

MONGE WARNS NICARAGUA AGAINST ATTACKING

PA291725 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] President Monge has stated: Nicaragua would be making a mistake if it attacked us. The Costa Rican president said that if Nicaragua tried to carry out an expansionist policy or to regionalize the war, it would be making a big mistake. The president made this statement on arrival yesterday after his trip to Oslo, Norway.

Monge said that if the government leaders of the sister country to the north tried to regionalize their revolution on the basis of an attack on Costa Rica, they would be committing their worst mistake. Although the Costa Rican people cannot hide their sympathy for the groups that struggle against the Nicaraguan Government, Monge added, he is not going to tolerate any intervention in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES WELFARE PLAN IN SAN VICENTE

PA282301 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Jun 83 pp 2, 41

[Text] San Vicente -- The peace corps that are part of the "Welfare for San Vicente" plan began their advance yesterday to clean up the extremist hideouts that are still operating in the hills of San Pedro. According to official sources, the peace operation is focusing on the eastern part of San Lorenzo and San Esteban Catarina, and 16 km north of the latter city. It was explained that large infantry contingents have been deployed to the mountains in this area.

The area that is now under siege by government troops includes the cantons of El Chililllo, San Juan la Burrera, Amatitan Arriba, Amatitan Abajo, Las Ardillas and other neighboring rural sectors. The shores of the Titihuapa River are also being combed throughout San Vicente Department; it is expected that clashes with the rebels, who have been committing a series of crimes in the region lately, will ensue at any moment. It was also recalled that thousands of residents of the towns of San Lorenzo and San Esteban Catarina received the benefit, over the weekend, of the vast plan to deliver food that is being implemented by the national committee for the reconstruction of areas. Plans are currently being made to rebuild the entire government infrastructure that has been destroyed by the terrorists in these towns. Electricity, potable water, transportation, mail, garbage collection and other such services will be resumed very soon and run efficiently.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS KILLING OF ARENA DEPUTY

PA292207 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Rene Barrios Amaya, deputy for the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, was shot to death on Km 4.5 of the road to Planes de Renderos, local stations have reported.

According to the reports, the incident occurred when Barrios Amaya, who was leaving his home located on the road to Planes de Renderos, was intercepted by several armed unidentified individuals, who shot him in the head five times. At the time of his death, Barrios Amaya was first secretary of the so-called Constituent Assembly.

So far this year, several members of the righwing parties that make up the constituent assembly either have been shot to death or have been the victims of such attempts. A few weeks ago, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters in San Salvador was machinegunned from a moving vehicle. PDC Secretary General Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes has accused the extreme rightwing -- that is, ARENA -- for this incident.

HAVANA ON CASTILLO EXCHANGE, GUERRILLA ACTIONS

PA282213 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Rebel station Radio Venceremos broadcast a reminder that today is the deadline set by the FMLN to exchange former Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Francisco Adolfo Castillo for over 20 guerrillas that the Salvadoran regime is holding in prison. The station added that if the response is negative, or if no answer is forthcoming, a revolutionary tribunal will try Castillo.

The Salvadoran Air Force, meanwhile, has subjected the cantons of La Bermuda, Ichanquezo, Zacamil and (Platanares) to heavy bombing, in support of about 2,000 Army troops who are trying once again to dislodge the guerrillas from their positions on Cuazapa Hill. According to several press dispatches, the army has placed a battery of 105-mm howitzers in San Jose Cuayabal, as well as putting 81-mm mortars and 120-mm mortars in various other positions.

Yesterday the guerrillas forces destroyed three microwave systems installed at Miramundo Hill, where U.S. instructors operate a complex center for military communications. Two of these systems were owned by the state, while the third was operated by the Army.

Last night, an explosive device went off near the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. It has been learned that a shootout took place after the explosion, but the consequences of this action are not yet known.

GUATEMALA

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SEE POSSIBILITY OF COUP

PA282226 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) warned the military regime today that unless it defines the various aspects of the country's national life in July, "the conditions for new coup attempts" will be created. DCG Secretary General Vinicio Cerezo said at a news conference today that his party has proposed a three-point plan to the president to help define all aspects of the "national program," because otherwise "the conditions for new coup attempts" will be created.

The DCG wants a high-level commission created, which would include representatives of the country's various sectors and professionals who have no commitments to any political party. A national forum would also be held to discuss the next constitution and other national issues. In addition, various representative institutions in Guatemala would be consulted about the electoral calendar.

According to the DCG plan, another high-level commission would serve as an intermediary with the government, to guarantee that this dialogue would lay the groundwork for a national agreement leading to the "institutionalization of the country."

The DCG secretary general said that some members of the "civic movement" that demanded last Thursday that the government "call elctions immediately" might be invited to participate in the "high-level" commission. According to Cerezo, the government's lack of willingness to hold a dialogue "had led us into a national crisis."

He reiterated that President Efrain Rios Montt should define all aspects of the "national program," instead of providing "partial solutions." He explained that his party will not participate in the "political forum" proposed by the government last week, because it "does not accept the creation of a new organization to resolve the national problems." The DCG made its announcement only a day after the military regime warned against a coup that, if brought about, would "necessarily" be "bloody." General Rios Montt's government feels that such a coup attempt would originate in the country's political rightwing.

Government Denies Coup Rumors

PA291354 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1330 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- At 0745 (1245 GMT) today the government of General Efrain Rios Montt confronted "tendentious rumors about a coup d'etate spread last night by interested sectors" by assuring that there is calm throughout the country. The government's note, which was read in a national radio network that has been functioning since early today, characterizes the rumors as "completely false speculations" and asks all citizens to remain calm. The communique asks the Guatemalans to work as usual. It notes that "the entire country must remain calm, and doing, as up to now, positive work toward the unpostponable task of building a new Guatemala."

According to reports not confirmed by official sources, the government is drafting a special communique to inform the nation about the current situation and some of the measures that will be taken. Meanwhile, the situation in this city is normal with the people going to their jobs. No special military activity has been noticed.

Government Announcement

PA291519 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Attention Guatemalan people: In the face of ridiculous rumors spread last night by certain sector interested in confusing the public, thd government of the republic emphatically states that these speculations are completely false and that the entire country must remain calm as it has been until now, devoted to positive work, peace and the unpostponable task of building a new Guatemala.

GORDILLO CALLS FOR RIOS MONTT'S RESIGNATION

PA291434 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0413 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 28 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Tonight, Colonel Francisco Gordillo, former member of the government junta formed after the 23 March 1982 coup d'etate, requested President General Efrain Rios Montt's resignation and announced that he is going underground.

In a statement to the "Here's the World" newscast, Colonel Gordillo accused President Rios Montt of wanting to stay in power for 4 years, and asked him to step down "for the sake of peace, justice, and truth."

The colonel said that "there is no need for a bloody uprising; there is no need for more division among our family; it will suffice to point an accusing finger and say: Gen Rios, get out; group of advisers, get out."

Francisco Gordillo said that he wants to recover the philosophy and principles of the uprising that toppled General Romeo Lucas Garcia on 23 March 1982, which was known at the time as the uprising of "young officers." Cordillo said that he had made this decision after reflecting and with maturity. He recalled that the Army staged the 23 March 1982 coup to "correct the errors of former administrations."

Gordillo said that he was ousted from the junta on 9 June 1982 by means of a false document, which was not supported by a consensus of junior commanders, after he had had an argument with President Rios Montt. The former government junta member said that charges of his participation in an attempted coup against Rios Montt in October 1982 were "false" and said that the government had wanted to send him to another country.

After accusing the current administration of not having resolved many of the country's problems, Colonel Gordillo said that in Guatemala one can see religious and political antagonism as well as the division of a people. After having made these remarks, which Col Gordillo himself termed as "risky," he declared Gen Rios Montt's group of advisers and the president himself responsible for any harm that might befall his relatives and friends.

CALM REPORTED IN CAPITAL DESPITE COUP RUMORS

PA291504 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (EFE) -- At 0745 (1245 GMT) today the government of General Efrain Rios Montt confronted "tendentious rumors about a coup d'etat spread last night by interested sectors" by assuring that there is calm throughout the country. The Government's note, which was read in a national radio network that has been functioning since early today, characterizes the rumors as "completely false speculation" and asks all citizens to remain calm.

The communique asks the Guatamalans to work as usual. It notes that "the entire country must remain calm, and do, as up to now, positive work toward the unpostponable task of building a new Guatemala."

At 0612 (1112 GMT), all the Guatemalan radio stations joined a network and began broadcasting music interspersed with the government communique asking the people to remain calm.

According to reports not confirmed by official sources, the government is drafting a special communique to inform the nation about the current situation and some of the measures that will be taken. Meanwhile, the situation in this city is normal, with the people going to their jobs. No special military activity has been noticed.

PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT TO ADDRESS COUNTRY 29 JUN

PA291522 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1450 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- Presidential palace sources have told this agency that President Efrain Rios Montt will address the country at noon today [1900 GMT] on a national radio and television network. According to presidential spokesman Rafael Escobar Arguello, General Rios Montt will explain the current political situation to the country and will announce the measures that are currently being studied.

Although this has not been confirmed by official sources, everything seems to suggest that the president's announcements will include the declaration of a "state of siege" throughout the country. According to the sources, Rios Montt will appeal "to the good sense of the communications media," because in the last few hours they have reported in detail about the possibilities of a coup. Gen Rios Montt is currently meeting with a group of political advisers. These include Interior Minister Colonel Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, Defense Minister General Oscar Mejia Victores, Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola, and State Council President Jorge Serrano Elias.

ACAN EFE has also learned that the leaders of the major Guatemalan political parties are holding separate meetings and reviewing this morning's situation. According to sources close to President Rios Montt, the main reason for forming a radio and television network for almost 3 hours, was to keep the radio newscasts from spreading new rumors about the alleged coup.

TROOP CONCENTRATION, TANKS REPORTED IN CITY

PA291559 Guatemala City Cadena Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1549 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Intense military movements have been going on since early this morning around the national palace and the presidential house. Many heavily-armed soldiers can be seen on rooftops of buildings near the palace. Meanwhile, several armored troop carriers were deployed on Avenue 6A. Although vigilance inside the palace is normal, the number of soldiers patrolling outside has been doubled. No information has been provided on the reason for this deployment of forces.

GOVERNMENT PREPARES TO ISSUE STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA291534 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1524 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, official spokesman of the Guatemalan Government, announced a few minutes ago that a decree establishing the state of emergency throughout the country will be issued shortly. The spokesman said that the state of emergency is the strongest measure that the current moment demands, but that it is not as strong as the state of siege.

SPOKESMAN SAYS RIOS MONTT WILL NOT RESIGN

PA291845 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1829 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- A government spokesman announced at noon today that President Efrain Rios Montt is calm and he will definitely not resign from his post.

Gonzalo Asturias told more than 40 reporters who are outside Rios Montt's office that "the president thinks that the democratization process must continue." He denied that there was coup attempt early today but noted that "there are sectors interested in staging a coup."

He stated that "these sectors" have spread rumors of a possible coup. The rumors come at the same time as a group of UN observers are in Guatemala. "For this reason, attempts have been made to stir up the country's political situation in order to get the government to take the improper measures, but the regime will not fall in that trap," he added. He denied that any officers had been arrested as was persistently rumored here.

Asturias refused to comment on the reason why Rios Montt will not appear over the national radio and television network at noon today as it had been orginally announced, but pointed out in advance that "it is possible" that he will appear in the afternoon.

Order Restricts Press Freedom

PA291926 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Government has prohibited the publication of "politically-related news, manifestos or declarations" in the news media. The order goes into effect today.

The presidency issued a press communique prior to an announcement of measures that will be applied in the country as a result of the political tension of the past few days. The communique provides details on the news media prohibition "as a way to counteract the massive campaign of insults and slander" against the government.

The official note indicates that the executive branch has prohibited "the publication or dissemination of news obtained from subversives, individuals, or legal persons which in some way try to disturb social and state security." The government explanation for imposing these measures is that "a challenge has arisen under the shield of the freedom that prevails in the country, and the object of this challenge is to force the government to commit a blunder."

The communique also notes that in spite of "all of the insults and slander" that has been launched through the news media, the authorities will not fall into "the trap," because they want "the democratization process to go on." In the note issued by the Public Relations Office, the government headed by General Efrain Rios Montt states that "it prefers to resort to the law to cool hot tempers."

RIOS MONTT'S MILITARY ADVISERS REPORTEDLY RESIGN

PA291946 Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun [dateline as received] -- (?The group) of military advisers of President Efrain Rios Montt resigned at noon today, apparently because of the pressure on the government over the past few days, it has been learned from an official source.

A brief government communique says that the advisory body has resigned in full, and that the government's statutes -- which established it following the coup that took Rios Montt to power on 23 March 1982 -- are thereby modified.

The government has enforced a radio and television network since 1200 hours (1600 GMT) [times as received] announcing "an important message" from President Rios Montt, but so far the president has not faced the cameras.

A few days ago it was learned that a group of Army officials opposed President Rios Montt's advisory body, which includes Colonel Vimor Argueta, Lieutenant Colonel Mario Rene Enriquez, Major Angel Sanchez Gudiel, Captain Rodolfo Munoz Pilona, Captain Mario Augusto Rivas, and Lieutenant Hector Mauricio Lopez. All these officers participated actively in the coup staged on 23 March 1982 and have held important government posts since then.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES 'STATE OF ALARM' 29 JUN

PA292010 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The government of General Efrain Rios Montt this afternoon declared a "state of alarm" throughout Guatemalan territory in a decree issued by the presidency.

The decree establishes the suspension of union activities and the operation of any institution, group or organization "that cooperates with the causes that led to application of the law on public order." It also includes the possibility of intervening or militarizing public services, including schools.

The decree adds: "The media are compelled to avoid reports that might cause confusion or panic or worsen the situation." Therefore, the media are prohibited from reporting news from "rebel groups or any person or organization involved in activities which in any way tend to disrupt the peace or security of the state."

From today on, the radio and television stations will be controlled by the General Directorate of Radiobroadcasting and Television [Direccion General De Radiodifusion y Television], "which will issue the regulations that are needed to best comply with these instructions."

Council of Ministers' Decree

PA292309 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2051 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Guatemalan Government Law decree No 7183, issued at the National Palace in Guatemala City on 29 June by the Council of Ministers]

[Text] The president of the republic, whereas: The government is authorized by law to restrict individual rights, expressly established in the Constitution, either temporarily, partially, or totally in case of the distrubance of peace or activities against the state's security.

Several people -- acting individually or on behalf of groups or political organizations, despite the efforts by the execution branch to achieve peace and harmony among the inhabitants of this country -- have publicly announced in the media that they intend to disturb peace and state security. These people openly incite the citizens to defy the government and to rebel against its institutions.

In view of the situation resulting from the distabilizing activities initiated by individuals and groups that are interested in achieving power illegally, and not through elections, the government is compelled to establish the necessary state of exception to neutralize the intentions of these individuals and groups, and consequently has adopted the following provisions:

In full use of the rights granted by articles 4, 23 -- in its last paragraph -- and 26, clauses 12 and 15 of the Constitution, modified by law decree No 3682, and based on chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the public order law, the government, in its Council of Ministers, decrees:

Article 1: A state of alarm is established throughout the country.

Article 2: In view of the state of alarm established in the previous article, individual rights specified in Nos 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18 and 19 of Article 23 of the Constitution are restricted indefinitely.

Article 3: The president of the republic, through the Government Ministry, will announce the provisions for the implementation of special official measures to be followed during the state of alarm.

Article 4: Union activities are suspended during the state of alarm.

Article 5: The Executive Branch may also suspend the activities of any entity, group, organization, or association -- with or without legal status -- that cooperates directly or indirectly with the factions that have prompted the implementation of this public order law. Those responsible will be sent to the respective courts.

Article 6: The executive has the right to intervene in or militarize public services, or any other services or activities, as necessary, including educational centers.

Article 7: All government authorities and entities, regardless of their function, are obligated to give the Government Ministry and security forces the help and cooperation requested from them, within the scope of their activities.

Article 8: The authorities may order the arrest of any person who is under suspect of conspiring against the established government, of affecting public order, or engaging in activities toward this end, without any need for a legal writ or order. Similarly, it may order the arrest of any one who belongs to or has been part of any groups that act in accordance with or follow orders from international organizations that follow the Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

Article 9: Government authorities and agents who must ensure compliance with these regulations may enter any house or closed quarters, without need for a judicial order or its owner's permission.

Article 10: These same authorities are entitled to dissolve by force, without any need for warning, any meeting or demonstration in which participants use weapons to attack the police or agents. In any other case in which authorities are compelled to dissolve a meeting or demonstration in which participants make no use of weapons to attack law representatives, they will be asked twice, consecutively, at prudent intervals, to disband. In case of resistance, authorities may use the necessary means to ensure that the order is obeyed.

Article 11: Authorities who are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of public order are entitled to prohibit the circulation or parking of vehicles in specific areas and zones, or at a particular time.

Similarly, they may request itineraries from those traveling to the interior of the repulbic. These authorities may also prevent vehicles from leaving towns, or may inspect them.

Article 12: It is strictly prohibited to carry firearms or to be in possession of explosives or similar materials. Not included in this restriction is the sale and ownership of spring-loaded airguns, which are legally classified as toys.

Article 13: Drivers must stop their vehicles as soon as they are asked to do so by any authority and must fully identify themselves.

Article 14: Communications media are obliged to refrain from publishing items that may cause confusion, panic, or may worsen the situation.

Consequently, the publication of any information from subversive groups or from any individual or legal entity engaged in activities that may lead to the disturbance of peace or of the nation's security is prohibited.

Article 15: Any person, regardless of condition or position, is committed to offering any assistance whenever required by the authorities, in accordance with he provisions of the law of public order.

Article 16: Groups, organizations, entities or associations, with or without legal status, that are engaged in subversive acts or any other action that opposes public order or contradicts the authority's provisions will be intervened in or dissolved, and those responsible will be placed at the disposal of the respective court. The conduct of such activities in state or municipal establishments or in decentralized and autonomous or semiautonomous entities shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

Article 17: The work of all public relations services associated with the ministries and other state organizations, as well as all publications referring to the current emergency, are hereby subject to central control by the secretariat of public relations of the Presidency of the Republic. The secretariat will be the only source of information for the duration of the present decree.

Article 18: The measures, resolutions or dispositions issued by the authorities charged with maintaining public order will be of an executive nature, and any act derived from their applications will not be subject to resistance or appeal.

Article 19: This decree will go into effect immediately, and it will be published in the official daily and disseminated via the communications media.

Given at the National Palace in the City of Guatemala on 29 June 1983. To be published and put into effect.

[Signed] Brigadier General Efrain Rios Montt, President of the Republic; Col Manuel de Jesus Giron Tanchez, secretary general of the presidency of the republic; Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, minister of government; Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, minister of defense; Leopoldo Sandoval, minister of agriculture and food; Edgar Lionel Ortega Rivas, minister of communications, transportation and public works; (Arturo Padilla), acting minister of economy; Rolando Mendez Mora, minister of education; Leonardo Figueroa Villate, minister of finance; Eduardo Castillo Arriola, minister of foreign relations; Adolfo Castaneda Felice, minister of public health and social assistance; Otto Palma Figueroa, minister of labor and social welfare.

HAVANA NOTES GUATEMALAN POLITICAL SITUATION

PA292016 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] General Efrain Rios Montt, chief of the Guatemalan regime, has denied through a radio network, insistent rumors about an imminent coup d'etat. His denial came only a few hours after Colonel Francisco Gordillo publicly demanded the resignation of the Guatemalan tyrant.

Rios Montt said that the coup rumors are completely false speculation. According to official sources, the Guatemalan regime is preparing special measures to face the situation. Last night, Colonel Gordillo -- who is believed to have been the mastermind of the 23 March 1982 coup -- urged Guatemalan Army officers not to let themselves be manipulated by those in power and announced that he will go underground temporarily.

Menawhile, Lionel Cisniega, former vice presidential candidate for the rightist National Liberation Movement, accused Rios Montt of having betrayed politicians, the military regime and the young officers of the Guatemalan Army.

According to last-minute reports, Rafael Escobar Arguello, spokesman for the regime, has announced that Gen Rios will suspend individual guarantees and impose restrictions on the news media so that it does not publish any news on the situation in Guatemala.

'STATE OF ALARM' EDICT RESTRICTS GUARANTEES

PA292031 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2012 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- According to the law on public order, the "state of alarm" empowers the government "to intervene in the operation of public services" and to demand the cooperation of private citizens to keep them operating. The government can also "centralize all information connected with the emergency in the hands of some public official, agency, or office."

Under the recently imposed state, the government can "ban all meetings, strikes, or work stoppages; force anyone to live in a given place; and either cancel or suspend the licenses to carry weapons."

On 1 July 1982, in the face of the guerrilla groups' advance, Rios Montt's government imposed a "state of siege" throughout the country, in what the regime described as the "final battle in the struggle against subversion."

Tordy, 2 days before the first anniversary of the implementation of the"state of siege," Rios Montt and his ministers have ordered the implementation of a new state of emergency. This time the cause is not harassment by the guerrillas, but the current political crisis.

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES 'STATE OF EXCEPTION'

PA292227 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2047 GMT 29 Jun 83

["Bulletin" read by Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, public relations secretary of the presidential palace -- live]

[Text] Good afternoon and thanks for waiting. As you all know, through its history, Guatemala has constantly struggled between dictatorships and democracy. The government of General Rios Montt has established the foundations for a democratization process which may lead to our national aspirations through dialogue and elections and avoid the extremisms which in the past have led to bloodshed.

Under the guarantees offered by the government, and taking advantage of the visit, by invitation of our government, of the Viscount Colville de Culreau, special spokesman of the UN Human Rights Commission, the government has been challenged and provoked to commit abuses, mainly against human rights. The government, however, neither fell nor will it fall into that trap, because it wants the democratization process to proceed.

In order to restore normalcy, because it was in fact artificially disturbed, taking advantage of the illustrious visitor, the government has decided to establish a temporary state of exception, which will not prevent the political opening from continuing. In fact, the members of the supreme electoral tribunal will be sworn in tomorrow.

As planned, the provisional directive boards of the committees for formation of political parties may continue their activities as established in Article 38 of Decree-law 32-83 on political organizations. Naturally, however, the state of exception will restrict some individual freedoms. This temporary recess, however, will allow all Guatemalans to think, to hear those who call for the adoption of positions of good sense and patriotism, and to set aside those who are trying to compromise the nation, even at an international level.

There is no reason for the population to worry and stop its normal working activities. The Guatemalan people should not pay attention to ill-intended rumors spread by interested sectors. The country and economic recovery we expect need today more than ever the cooperation of all Guatemalans.

Now we will read a decree, issued on this date.

Decree Law No. 70-83. The President of the Republic, whereas:

Article 3 of the government's fundamental statute establishes the existence of the military advisory group, made up according to the provisions of Paragraph 11 of the Proclamation of the Guatamalan Armed Forces to the People, on 23 March 1983; and

That the higher officers and lower members of that advisory group have tendered their resignations, to fully dedicate their time to their military functions in accordance with their rank and specialty, for which it is necessary to issue the appropriate legal disposition, modifying in that respect the Government's fundamental statute.

Therefore, based on the provisions of Articles 2,4 and 118 of Decree Law 28-82, modified by Decree Law 36-82 at a ministerial council meeting, orders:

Article 1. The cancellation of Paragraph 2, Article 3 of the Government's Fundamental Statute, Decree-Law 24-82, consequently leaving without effect the existence of the military advisory group established in that paragraph.

Article 2. This decree enters into effect immediately and will be published in the official Daily Gazette and in the Army Officers' General Orders.

Given at the National Palace, in the City of Guatemala, on the 29th day of June 1983. To be published and put into effect.

[Signed] Brigadier General Efrain Rios Montt, president of the republic; Colonel Manuel de Jesus Giron Tanchez, secretary general of the presidency of the republic; Leopoldo Sandoval, minister of agriculture and food; Edgar Lionel Ortega Rivas, minister of communications, transportation and public works; Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, minister of national defense; (Arturo Padilla Diaz), acting deputy minister of economy; Rolando Mendez Mora, minister of education; Leonardo Figueroa Villate, minister of finance; Eduardo Castillo Arriola, minister of foreign relations; Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, minister of government; Adolfo Castaneda Felice, minister of public health and social assistance; Otto Palma Figueroa, minister of labor and social welfare.

Edict Controls Weapons, Travel

PA292238 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2101 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Guatemalan Government Edict No. 450-83, issued in Guatemala City on 29 June]

[Text] The president of the republic, considering:

That since the state of alarm has been established throughout the nation's territory, it is appropriate to issue rules to complement this state of exception, for which purpose it is necessary to issue the respective legal provisions. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Decree Law 7183 of this date, and exercising the powers granted to him by Articles 4 and 26, Section 15 of the Fundamental Government Statute [Estatuto Fundamental de Gobierno], as amended by Decree Law 3682, resolves:

Article 1. During the state of alarm to which the mentioned decree refers, any public or private meeting, regardless of the number of participants, is strictly banned; if such events are held, the law enforcement authorities will proceed to break them up immediately and to arrest those responsible for them.

Article 2. Exempted from the ban referred to in Article 12 of the decree that established the state of alarm are the weapons carried by members or units of the Civil Self-Defense Corps, organized or authorized by the National Defense Ministry. Proceedings in this case will be as follows:

a) National weapons must be turned over to the military authorities in the jurisdiction immediately, without any kind of requirement.

b) Weapons of permissible caliber must be turned over to the military authorities, who will provide a legal certificate of receipt. Violators will be tried by the respective courts and their weapons will be confiscated.

c) The use of explosives in state or private works must be consulted previously with the National Defense Ministry.

Article 3. Decree Law 7183 will not affect the operation of state organizations or institutions, whose members will continue to enjoy the immunities and prerogatives granted them by law.

Article 4. Any searches of homes and vehicles for security purposes will be carried out by authorities charged with preserving public order.

Article 5. In order to safeguard the tranquillity and safety of persons and their properties, public order will be maintained through patrols by the security forces.

Article 6. The authorities charged with preserving public order are hereby empowered to ban the circulation or parking of vehicles at given places, areas, and times, as well as to demand that drivers identify themselves and state their itineraries.

Article 7. The authorities may either prevent the departure of vehicles from towns or search them.

Article 8. Radio and television stations operating in the territory of the republic will be under the control of the General Directorate of National Radio and Television Broadcasting [Direccion General de Radiodifusion y Television Nacional], from which the measures required to enforce this edit will emanate.

Article 9. Violators of this edict will be punished in accordance with the law.

Article 10. The government Ministry will resolve cases pertaining to the emergency situation that are not covered by this edict.

Article 11. This edict will go into effect immediately and will be published in the Official Daily.

Be it published. [Signed] Brigadier General Jose Efrain Rios Montt; Interior Minister Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, and National Defense Minister Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

THREE PARTIES REJECT ATTEMPTS AT COUP D'ETAT

PA300019 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] As of now, three political parties have rejected any attempt at a coup d'etat because they feel that this would be detrimental to the process of recovery of constitutional order over the short term. The parties that have taken a public stand in this regard are Guatemalan Christian Democracy, the Reformist National Party, and the National Liberation Movement.

'GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN' DISCOUNT COUP POSSIBILITY

PA300109 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Text] Government spokesmen have rejected the possibility of a coup d'etat, as there is firm unity between the Army and the government. Two spokesmen of the military regime led by General Efrain Rios Montt emphatically denied the possibility of a new coup, claiming that the nation's current situation would not permit it, and indicating that the ranks of the Armed Forces and the government authorities are firmly united with and loyal to the head of state. The two high-ranking officials also said that any coup attempt from any sector of the country would be unsuccessful, as General Rios Montt currently enjoys majority support for his role as president of the republic.

GOVERNMENT REVISION OF RESTRICTIVE EDICT

PA300348 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0316 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Guatemalan Government Edict No 452-83 issued in Guatemala City on 29 June 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The president of the republic, considering:

That it is advisable to expand Article 1 of Government Edict No. 450-83, dated 29 June 1983, in order to regulate matters pertaining to public and private parties that are held with no intention of disrupting peace and the state's security, [words indistinct] the corresponding legal provision. Therefore, exercising the powers granted him by Articles 4 and 26, Sections 14 and 15 of the Fundamental Government Statute, as amended by Decree Law No. 36-82, resolves:

Article 1. Article 1 of Edict No. 450-83 is expanded to include the following paragraph: Excluded from the ban referred to in this article are public or private meetings held without any intention of disrupting peace and state security, unless the authorities verify the existence of such extremes, in which case they will proceed as stated in the last part of the preceding paragraph.

Article 2. This edict will go into effect immediately and will be published in the Official Daily.

Be it published. [Signed] Brigadier General Jose Efrain Rios Montt, Interior Minister Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, and National Defense Minister Oscar Humerto Mejia Victores.

STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

PA300457 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0302 GMT 30 Jun 83

["Special message for the Guatemalan people" read by Guatemalan State Council President Jorge Serrano Elias, in Guatemala City -- live]

[Excerpts] I wish to begin by sending a greeting to the Guatemalan people on behalf of the State Council and by expressing our pleasure to you over the fact that our country's first supreme electoral tribunal will be installed tomorrow. This supreme electoral tribunal indisputably entails an achievement in our country's democratic life.

We feel that an electoral tribunal like that which will take office tomorrow is unquestionably an instrument or court that will be a guarantor of the just and dignified representation that our country deserves to have in its (?institutions). This democratization process also unquestionably involves the development of our political parties.

As State Council, we recognize that every social process needs to constantly perfect itself and that what we are doing cannot be thought to be perfect. Rather, we are instruments subject to the process of working toward perfection and to [word indistinct]. However, everything changes, particularly when changes of a political or social nature invariably create expectations, opposition; and in many cases even misunderstanding.

The steps that have been taken until today are not enough. The (?laws) are not enough. Despite the hopes that we have pinned on it and its mmebers, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will not be enough, unless we Guatemalans concern ourselves with finding better paths toward understanding between government leaders and the governed people and unless we exercise democracy with consultation, so as not to fall into the libertinism that has led Latin American countries toward the most opprobrious and unstable dictatorships that our continent has ever known.

As State Council; we feel that this is a transcendental time seldom seen in the history of our country; that we face a two-way path: one that would allow us to arrive at democracy and at a redefinition of relations among Guatemalans, and another that may lead us back to dictatorship, hatred, tears, sorrow, and [word indistinct]. For this reason, we feel that it is important [words indistinct] that the steps that must be taken in terms of our country's democratization must be secure, mature, conscious steps, not [words indistinct].

On this occasion, and in order to maintain this timetable and secure institutions that will guarantee respect for the citizens' will, as well as to be able to develop the basic and necessary instruments for these popular consultations, we propose, as a suggestion on our part, the date of 23 March 1984 -- as has been announced -- for the call [to elections]. We propose 19 July 1984 as the date to hold elections for the National Constituent Assembly, and 15 September 1984 as the anniversary of our independence, the date to install the new assembly. As we have said before, this assembly must comply with and fulfill the aspirations of the Guatemalan people.

We think that it is only on a path charted on the basis of these guidelines that we will be able to consolidate, as Guatemalans, a future of peace, prosperity, and development for this country, and to coexist and live harmoniously with other countries that, like ours, are desperately trying to find paths toward democracy [words indistinct].

POLITICAL LEADERS STUDY STATE OF ALARM DECREE

PA300902 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0819 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 30 Jun (LATIN-REUTER) -- Guatemalan political leaders are studying the details of a government decree promulgated yesterday that has placed the country in a "state of alarm." The decree, read over radio and television by a spokesman for Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt, calls for the suspension of a great number of civil rights, including freedom of assembly, of the press, privacy and habeas corpus.

The government said that the drastic measures will not prevent the implementation of a promised "political opening." However, the political leaders have said that they are trying to determine how they can continue political activity under these restrictions.

Alejandro Maldonado, leader of the Nationalist Renovating Party, told this agency that to attempt to continue the "political opening" under the restrictions imposed by the government "would be like attempting to swim in a straitjacket."

GORDILLO MARTINEZ' STATEMENT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

PA292000 Guatamala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] In mid-1982, the government dissolved the junta that seized power following a coup d'stat. At that time, Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez, one of three officers who made up the triumvirate, criticized the regime and placed himself in open opposition to President General Efrain Rios Montt. Gordillo Martinez was even mentioned as a participant in an alleged plot against the government in October and was court martialed for his alleged involvement in the action. It has often been said that Gordillo Martinez will eventually be nominated president in furute elections and he has said that he would be accessible for that.

In an efffort to get the opinion of one of those involved in the country's political and institutional situations, this newscast interviewed Gordillo Martinez, a member of the former government junta together with Rios Montt and Gen Horacio Maldonado Schaad.

Gordillo Martinez stated;

[Begin recording] I, Infantry Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez, being of sound mind and body, report the following to the Guatemalan people, the honorable diplomatic corps accredited to our country, the UN Human Rights Commission and the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission: On 23 March 1982, a coup d'etat was carried out in Guatemala to correct the mistakes of previous administrations. The people were joyous. The army itself forgave certain misdeeds because we know we were doing it for Guatemala's sake.

In making this statement, I want to clearly state that I am not saying this to appear as a victim. I am not doing this to look like a perfect person. I am not doing this to try to offend or slander anybody. I am doing this so that the people will know and understand much of what happened then which has led to our situation now.

Right after the government junta was formed with Gen Rios Montt, Gen Maldonado Schaad, and I, we, Maldonado Schaad and I, were ousted from power. We were each given a ministry and thus were separated from power.

Later I realized that I couldn't even transfer a soldier, much less an officer. Rios Montt began to exert himself. He began saying: I don't want to be a Pinochet or a Castro. I told him on that occasion: We are not.

Subsequently, 8 days later, he began living in the official residence of the defense minister and was accompanied by a group of officers who were his advisers. They were Colonel Victor Manuel Argueta Villalta, Colonel Mario Enriquez, Captain Carlos Munoz Bilona, and Captain Mario Rivas.

When Maldonado Schaad and I went to visit him, he said: Lucky you, who are still in your little homes while I have to deal with all these spoiled brats. Then, 8 days later, he moved to the presidential palace and took the title of president.

He suggested to Maldonado Schaad and I that we occupy Santa Rosita, a home owned by Salvador Flores Salaam and Mr (?Menegas). I told him that it wasn't right to move in to a house that didn't belong to us.

One day, when we had a meeting with the officers' advisory group -- perhaps due to the lack of experience, because he should have made the statement in private -- Lieutenant Aguilar Melendez told Rios Montt: My general, I have a friend at the Treasury Office and he suggested to me that we change the format for the presidency's confidential expenditures [words indistinct] because there were rumors about money being withheld. Rios Montt became nervous and said: I don't handle those funds; Argueta Villata does.

He had appointed a close relative in three secretariats. According to him, his relative was supposed to work ad honorem, but it was proven that the first day on the job he collected 1,600 quetzals as per diem.

We were practically ignored during many governmental functions. Rios Montt did as he pleased according to what he and his advisory group wanted. Thus, we reach 9 June, the date we were dismissed from the junta, amid many more problems. On 9 June, we were asked to attend a working breakfast. When we got there, it was virtually a trap. Maldonado Schaad and I never signed any resignation document. After what I wouldn't describe as a dialogue or discussion, but as a heated argument, it was agreed that a news conference would be held at 1100. Everybody knows what happened then.

At the end of this news conference, I was surprised to see that two bodyguards accompanied us to the presidency. Fifteen minutes later, I realized that Giron Sanchez was holding a document to be signed by the commanders. This meant that the document read to the people about our resignation and the government's appreciation of our work was a false document which hadn't been signed. Therefore, they had deceived the people, the other commanders, and us.

Then, I returned to a house I occupied at the general headquarters. At 2100 on 20 June, Col Argueta Villalta came over and told me that Gen Rios Montt was worried about my economic situation and that he wanted to help me. [Words indistinct] thanked him.

At 1000 on 22 June, the finance minister came to visit me and said that the president had instructed him to give me 50,000 quetzals. He asked me if I wanted the amount in dollars or in an overseas account. This upset me very much because the officers who had been on my side were immediately transferred from the capital to other departments. Their only crime was their support for me. I noted the embarrassment of the finance minister who had to carry out such a dishonorable job. Despite the fact that I am poor, I didn't take the money. I would have been ashamed to look at the face of any of my officers had I accepted this money. They had to pay a very high price for supporting me and being loyal to me, while I walked away with my pockets full of money.

I went to the military hospital for a checkup because I was having gastrointestinal problems. I then received orders from the general staff to leave for Chile as a military attache.

I was not given much time to comply with the order. In view of the fact that I was undergoing medical treatment, I requested a medical certificate from the hospital so that I would be allowed to have more time to complete this treatment.

I also called the foreign minister and told him that in Guatemala we don't think much of protocol but that in other countries they are very strict about it, I pointed out to him that I, as a military attache, would be subordinate to the ambassador. This wouldn't look too good because I had just held a very high position in the country and this could result in comment. He said he would talk to the president and would get back to me.

The following day he called me on the phone and said that he had talked with the president. He said, Rios Montt and I discussed the possibility of sending you to Japan or Egypt, but felt that you would have diplomatic problems. Therefore, you will be given another embassy, but not in Central America" This is how things stood when I was ordered to continue my treatment in Houston. I got 1,000 quetzals as a traveling allowance, visa, passport, and a letter for our consul in Houston to receive me. In view of the existing pressure, I decided to leave with my wife. When I was in the United States, I learned that I had been involved in a plot. So I returned to the country to clarify my situation, because I had nothing to hide or fear and I owed nothing. I was detained and tried. The trial is still pending because the judges are afraid [words indistinct] have not given fair treatment to this case.

Then it was suggested to me that I should again leave the country and go to a diplomatic post, but I had been offended and discredited, and I could not be an ambassador representing a government that had humiliated me.

Once I answered a question from a reporter, and this resulted in my dismissal from the army. It was said that I had made a political statement. It was not a partisan remark, but a statement of national interest. My basic idea was to give guidance from my position as a former government leader. I wanted the best path and solutions for the Guatemalan people.

As I said, I was dismissed. I am saying this so that people will understand why I opposed the government. I opposed the government because I knew a lot. I wish we hadn't reached the current extreme in which, because of a wrong social and economic policy, we are witnessing the disintegration of the family. We can't say that the family is united because [words indistinct]. We are witnessing religious, political, and social antagonisms. In sum, the Guatemalan family is completely divided when it should be united.

Going back to 23 March, the idea was to put the country back on the path to democracy. We now see that a year has gone by and the people still don't know what will be done.

There are certain reports which aren't too far from the truth. According to these reports, there are plans for the first [words indistinct] concerning the elections, the electoral tribunal, political parties, and the voters' affiliation. Then later on the electoral council will be installed. In 2 years, the constituent assembly will convene. I understand that it will be established in August 1984. It will have 10 months to draft the constitution. It will have until September 1985 to do that. Then there will be 3 months for the readjustment of electoral laws. The political campaign will begin in September 1985, and will last until January 1986. If these facts are known in other places, why shouldn't the Guatemalan people know them now? The government should explain this to the people. When it fails to let the people know what they have a right to know, speculation and rumor begin and confusion reigns.

Something much more serious has happened which has indiscriminately hurt the people. The politicians, the newsmen, the teachers, the citizens, and the heads of the family have been reprimanded. This has resulted in [word indistinct], fear, insecurity, and pressure. Therefore, the current government does not deserve to be the guarantor of an electoral process, because it has humiliated the people, and the people's dignity is priceless.

In view of this situation and for the sake of the people who are suffering, frightened, and hopeful, I say the following: For the sake of Guatemala's peace, justice, and truth, Gen Rios Montt must resign.

There is no need for a bloody movement or further division among our family. All we have to do is point our accusing finger and say: Gen Rios Montt and the group of advisers, leave power to that honest men can guarantee elections.

Honorable people must be immediately summoned so that they can assume this responsibility; so that within a short period of time, they can give the necessary guarantees and groundwork for Guatemala's return to constitutionality and for the people to elect their officials freely, democratically, and without any fear or pressure.

On Army Day, I greet all the military officers and my brothers. I remind them that the Army has a sacred mission: It dies for the homeland and the people, but not for a man or a group of people.

I am making this statement, which is very risky and will bring more suffering to my family, as a soldier, and a citizen with rights and obligations. I am not saying all this out of resentment. I am not saying it because I want to be a man without sin. I am only human.

I want to note that I am making Colonel Argueta Villalta, Lieutenant Colonel Sanchez Gudiel, Capt Rivas, Capt Munoz Bilona, and the persons close to them responsible for anything that may happen to my family, friends, or me. Those around them are also guilty of what is happening in Guatemala. Those who are close to the government leaders are to blame because they have gotten their leaders drunk with power. They have led them to believe that they are powerful and omnipotent.

Guatemalan people: If my life is for you, I am right here.

SISNIEGA OTERO OPPOSES PRESENT GOVERNMENT

PA292140 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Politician Lionel Sisniega Otero, who virtually disappeared from the public scene in August 1982 after he was accused of participating in an alleged plot against the government, today announced that he has returned from exile. He published a paid advertisement in the newspaper LA HORA, in which he formulated a statement against President Efrain Rios Montt and against the National Liberation Movement [MLN] Party. Sisniega was one of the main members of the MLN until a few months after the 23 March coup d'etat. In view of Sisniega Otero's sudden reappearance, which ends a long period of silence, the "Here's The World" newscast got in touch with the political leader for an interview that is obviously important in view of the country's current situation. Here are Sisniega Otero's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Sisniega] I just want to tell the Guatemalans that my greatest desire was to rejoin the country's active life, but I have observed and understood that this is impossible.

The imprisonment of honorable Guatemalans forhaving dared to publicly express their opinions about the attitude of the chief of state shows that there is no respect for the rights of citizens. Since their rights have not been respected, neither will my rights be respected, and I do not want to give them the pleasure of jailing me on any charge. At this time, capriciousness rather then the law prevails. Frankly, we are at an age that we cannot submit ourselves to capriciousness.

[Unidentified reporter] How do you view Guatemala's future?

[Sisniega] If we continue this way, I see it to be very dark. In other words, a time will come when the people will not be able to take it anymore. One should be afraid of the Guatemalans who have a weapon in their hands, but of the Guatemalans who have nothing in their hands. This is no longer an ideological or political problem, but involves needs and survival. This is a very dangerous subject to use, because the masses necessarily cause big problems. It has always been said that he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind, and whirlwinds always destroy.

[Reporter] As an old and experienced politican, how do you view the current activity of the political parties?

[Sisniega] In truth, the activity of the traditional parties is one of survival. As for what has been called a political opening in a really naive or ill-intentioned pluralism, there has been a splinter of forces and factions that will only lead to the buying and selling of emblems, support, and backing in the political market. I don't think this will lead to anything good for the country.

[Reporter] Do you think this situation is harming the country's image abroad?

[Sisniega] The image abroad might not be harmed, but internally, the life and situation of the Guatemalans is greatly harmed.

[Reporter] Danilo Roca and Alberto Antoniotti of the MLN have expressed opinions and have given a synopsis of the 23 March coup. Since you were one of those who participated in it, can you recount some of the events?

[Sisniega] The report by Danilo Roca is quite well-informed, because it begins at dawn on the day of the events. He is an individual with great qualities and good possibilities with whom the subject was thoroughly discussed. The summary by Antoniotti is really quite superfluous, even though he tried to give it great depth and dimension. Alberto Antoniotti was simply a man paid by the MLN publicity and propaganda office, and he was called to write texts to be broadcast by TGW [Domestic Service].
When he arrive at my house at 0600 on 23 March he asked Danilo Roca why he had been called.

The subject of 23 March is very interesting. Through the Sunday sermons, we get the impression that God placed General Efrain Rios Montt at the head of the 23 March movement and then at the head of the Guatemalan people. This is not true. He is not as pure or innocent as he likes people to believe and as he has led the people to believe through the Sunday speeches.

Gen Efrain Rios Montt politically supported us during the electoral campaign, and in the final phase of the elections, he presented an emergency plan. This emergency plan involved the participation of 1,400 men placed at 14 different points of the city who would act as a popular uprising in case General Lucas Garcia announced the fraudulent triumph of General Guevara.

He asked for these men and 14 leaders so there would be one leader with each group [words indistinct] the streets of Guatemala if what I previously said occurred. This plan had to be modified due to the way that the events occurred. He subsequently participated in the plot that culminated in the 23 March movement.

We met on Thursday, 18 March, in the house of Colonel Luis Sosa Avila. Gen Efrain Rios Montt, Manuel Sosa Avila, Col Luis Sosa Avila, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, and I met there. I told them that I had been in contact with Lieutenants Aguilar and Jacinto at the [name indistinct] military base and that they guaranteed a general uprising of forces not only in the capital, but also in the nearby bases to overthrow the government and to turn it over to the party that really won the majority of votes in the elections, since the recount could be made without any difficulty. Mario Sandoval said that if the coup was staged and if he was not in Guatemala, since he was leaving almost immediately for Houston, there should also be a milit ary chief, besides a civilian chief like myself, and that the military chief should be Gen Efrain Rios Montt -- not only because he was the man who had strategically prepared for the reaction of the MLN, and so as not to lose the [words indistinct] there should be a general in the movement. Gen Rios Montt was later also given the task of preparing a plan to reunite the army and to return to institutionality within a year. The day after, on Friday the 19th, I was unable to locate Rios Montt. I couldn't locate him on Saturday the 20th, either. It seemed that he had changed residences due to strategy. I continued contacts with the young officers, who, by the way, did not receive nor request money, as Gen Rios Montt maliciously said later. Not a single penny was involved in this. There were simply good intentions and the desire to solve problems so that Guatemala could take the democratic path, returning the right of self-determination to the people.

We set the date, hour, and other details of the coup, which was carried out without the presence of Rios Montt. Subsequently, at 1430, Rios Montt called me at TQW and asked how things were going. I said: Its going well with your help. When are you going to come? He said: Yes, I will present myself, but I first want to talk with some officers. Since Major Sanchez Pudiel was present, I called him to talk with Rios Montt over the telephone. He spoke with Rios Montt, I don't know what they said, but then Rios Montt showed up at the central park at around 1730 or 1800 and he asked to speak only with military men. From then on, the civilians who had really prepared and carried out the movement with the young officers were betrayed. He then allied himself with General Maldonado Schaad and Colonel Gordillo, the two chiefs of military commands such as the [name indistinct] garrison and the honor guard, who had participated in the fraud. He allied himself with them and established a transition government that was later turned into a government of change when, betraying Gen Schaad and Col Gordillo, he expelled them from the junta. The third betrayal was of the ideals of the young officers who had risked their lives and careers to give Guatemala a better future.

He betrayed the civilians, the general and colonel who were his comrades in the junta, and the ideals of the young officers. This is not a plan by God, but a truly diabolical, skillful, and Machiavellian plan by Gen Rios Montt. Therefore, it is not God's plan. There is no purity. There is no disinterest. It was a really shrewd maneuver by him [words indistinct] and the desire to take revenge against the politicians who had at one time denied him the possibility of reaching the presidency.

Now there is talk of future elections, but those future elections will not be held within the period he has been stating. The process will not begin in the period that he has been stating. In recent remarks in the United States, one of his political advisers said said that the elections for a national constituent assembly will be held in 1985. That remark has been published. I have asked that copies be sent to me so that they can be published by the media.

[Reporter] Some sectors have said that the government could turn into a dictorship. What is your opinion?

[Sisniega] I don't believe it is a dictatorship. I am convinced that it is a tyranny. A dictatorship involves a group of people who work and maintain a situation by force. A tyranny is simply the whim and the will of a person. In this case, we have the whim of a tyrant with sexual aberrations and religious fanaticism that borders on the inconceivable.

[Reporter] What do you mean by sexual aberrations?

[Sisniega] I mean that he is always saying that women get involved with men and that men should not get involved with woman. What I mean is that I am sick and tired of seeing this topic on the television, where it is out of place, and in poor taste. From the television and other appearances by this person, who has confused a podium with a pulpit, I have come to the conclusion that that gentleman thinks he is governing a countryof prostitutes, thieves, and scoundrels. Really, I cannot see how the Guatemalan masses can accept this characterization. The fact that he made all employees swear that they would not steal, commit abuses, and tell lies means that he thinks that they are all liars, abusers, and thieves. When he told women that they have managed to keep, improve, or even get their jobs through their constant [words indistinct] with their bosses and directors, he committed an abuse, based on his position and on the needs of those who listened to him.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will Rios Montt be the chief executive?

[Sisniego Otero] I think that General Rios Montt has planned for a good number of years for himself in the government. I simply cannot predict how much longer he will be there. It may be a few hours, a few days, or many more years.

[Reporter] As a person who is familiar with Guatemala's politics, how would you compare this government with that which was overthrown?

[Sisniega Otero] Well, I think that, generally speaking, the deposed government had many advantages over the present government. In fact, I think that if all Guatemalans make a comparison, and I don't mean to say that all past times were better, this era differs from the other in one small detail. In streets where there is no air pollution, there are mounds of dirt instead. After analyzing each area of the nation's life, one by one, I think that this small difference marks the beginning of a great one.

[Reporter] After being inactive in politics for so many months are you planning to return to the National Liberation Movement [MLN]?

[Sisniega Otero] Well, I cannot return to the MLN with the leadership that it currently has. The MLN's leadership is solely concerned with its personal well-being. As a result of this concern, it will reach any compromise, even if it means sacrificing its own membership. I reached a parting of the ways with the MLN's highest leadership in August last year and the break is real and complete. I do not intend to return while the party's current leadership remains.

I am keeping faith and expressing my principles, and I feel that I will be able to work at any time with my MLN brothers -- I mean with the true liberationists, not with those who benefit from the movement, who call themselves the top power echelon of the MLN.

Frankly, I think it took me too long to leave. However, it is symptomatic. Why did Roberto Herrera Ibarguen and his group leave, accusing the MLN leadership of betrayal? Why did Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre and his friends leave the MLN, accusing the leadership of betrayal? And why did I leave more recently with all of the genuine MLN members, also accusing the leadership of betrayal? According to a popular saying, where there is smoke there is fire. In this case, the number of departures of valuable party members with the same allegation should lead to an absolute definition of the position of Mario Sandoval Alarcon, Hector Aragon, Carlos Godoy, Rodrigo Valladares, and the other elements that compose the class group that has wielded power in the party for so many years.

I would say that even though most of us, the MLN members, did not agree with an entrenchment [entronizacion] of the Rios Montt administration for an undertermined number of years, there was always an advisory type of relationship, through which advice and recommendations were submitted to Rios Montt. He could have used them, if he had only listened. However, he did receive them. In other words, this was free-of-charge, useless counseling, because Mr Rios Montt never did and never will listen to anyone. He feels that he is an enlightened man, and that's it.

[Reporter] Did this idea come from the top leader?

[Sisniega Otero] It came from the top leader, personally. There have been many stages, but I think he is already tired, and I feel that it might be good for him to go into a recess, to take a rest or simply to withdraw, we might say.

[Reporter] A definitive withdrawal from the party?

[Sisniega Otero] A definitive withdrawal from political activity.

[Reporter] Why do you think so [word indistinct]?

[Sisniega Otero] Because there are times when one is declining, that one has to agree that it is time to leave the ring so as not to risk ridicule, as Cassius Clay did, without training, heavy in years, and without any possibility of winning when he fought against younger men who had a better chance and who made him look ridiculous.

[Reporter] What do you think of the MLN's future?

[Sisniega Otero] As a theory, as a platform, as an anticommunist, rightist ideology, the MLN has a very promising future, because most Guatemalans have, through the years, shown their sympathy for the principles propounded by the MLN.

I think that the future of its leaders will be [word indistinct] when, enjoying full freedom, the MLN is able to hold a national convention and freely elect its leaders.

[Reporter] Sometime ago, some MLN leaders said that Mario Sandoval and you had first met in San Salvador, then in Honduras, and probably in Miami afterward. Is this true?

[Sisniega Otero] This assertion is absolutely groundless, for the chance to hold such a meeting never existed. At the time that Sandoval was in El Salvador and Honduras, I was not there, and I was not in Miami when he arrived there. Had I been in any of those places when he arrived, I would not have met with him because I am not interested. I want no excuses or reconciliations. I made a decision and I intend to keep it.

I am categorical in my attitudes. I said that I did not like a leadership that goes over its own subordinates. [Words indistinct] I don't want to have anything to do with that [word indistinct] MLN leadership and I have never met, either outside or inside Guatemala, with any of the party's leaders.

[Reporter] What do you think of the country's judicial authorities?

[Sisniega Otero] In such cases, some comic strips carry blurry and weird signs and others just have a sign that says "censored." A description of the country's judicial authorities is something that is patently obvious. In the first place, I don't know how some lawyers still insist on being magistrates or members of the judiciary when next to them there are secret (?judges) who carry out secret trials and use secret jails, just as in the best communist countries. I think this involves a profound lack of respect, a lack of respect for themselves. They should have resigned, but I think that each one of them [words indistinct] has permitted the existence -- in addition to what one sees in the Supreme Court and the ordinary courts -- of trials in which death sentences are pronounced with dangerous ease, without any rights of any kind, without the right of habeas corpus, or any right to petition of any kind. I think that this judiciary branch has been totaly subservient to the whims of those who are [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Colonel Gordillo, who was one of the members of the junta that seized power on 23 March [1982], was under arrest some time ago. He was accused of plotting to stage a countercoup which was to be [word indistinct] by you. What do you think of that?

[Sisniega Otero] No, I have had no contacts with Colonel Gordillo in terms to this kind of activity. I think that it would be difficult for us to achieve coordination in such a situation. I had nothing to do with it. I have been falsely accused on several occasions by the current ruler and his sycophants. However, I have not taken part in those activities. Anytime that I do so, the result will be different.

[Reporter] The [word indistinct] government has said that minicoups or countercoups are being hatched against the regime. What is your opinion?

[Sisniega Otero] Recently, government public relations chief Gonzalo Asturias referred to a coup d'etat and virtually accused the MLN or organizing it. However, there was a retort by the MLN, in the sense that there was no such plot and that a coup d'etat would not be advisable. I think that the accusation and the response have the same origin. There must be some league, because what there is at this moment is desperation among the Guatemalan people. The high cost of living, the lack of jobs, the lack of opportunities, the lack of elements and materials, and the constant threat from a government that drifts with the wind are frankly no joke.

(?I insist), the guerrilla activity has continued, even if there is no talk about it. The economic deterioration is not only tangible, but a tearful reality. Agricultural activities have suffered tremendous damage, and now that the situation is at its worst, Mr Rios Montt has said: Excuse me, I am going to lift some taxes on coffee growers, and in order to lift those taxes I am going to impose them on the people.

However, the people do not produce coffee and receive no income. I insist, the situation is not marked by plotting, but by desperation. I insist, we should not be afraid of those who have weapons in their hands, but of those who have nothing in their hands, because they will take up arms at any time.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Sisniega Otero] I think that the situation is very difficult, but as doctors say, the prognosis has not yet been revealed.

[Reporter] Do you think that the persecution you are now enduring is due to your knowledge of some inside information about the coup d'etat and General Rios Montt's actions?

[Sisniega Otero] Today we have given some details. However, I am writing my memoirs in which I will do more than give some details; many things escape us in interviews like this, but when one sits down, muses, and remembers, one writes in full detail. Threats and pressure are of no interest to me. Therefore, there is no way that the things I know and will publish can be kept secret.

[Reporter] To conclude this interview, do you wish to say anything else?

[Sisniega Otero] All I want to tell the Guatemalans is that even though the situation is difficult, there are always Guatemalans who are ready to struggle for Guatemala and the future of our fatherland.

HONDURAS

SALVADORAN TROOPS ARRIVE FOR MILITARY TRAINING

PA292340 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Official Communique No 29 issued by the Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Office, date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] This is to inform the national and international public that, in accordance with decree No 104-83 issued by the National Congress on 20 June, members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces have arrived at the Regional Military Training Center, CREM, [Centro Regional de Entrenamiento Militar]. They will be students at the CREM and will be trained together with students from other friendly countries who have been invited to the center by the Honduran Government.

PRESS OFFICE DENIES CHARGES OF BORDER CROSSINGS

PA291710 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran International Press Office in Tegucigalpa on 28 June]

[Text] The Honduran Government has vigorously rejected the Nicaraguan regime's speculation that members of the Honduran Armed Forces Special Tactical Group have entered Nicaraguan territory to deactivate mines placed on the border.

Ambassador Amilcar Santamaria, director of the government's International Press Office, stated that Honduran troops have never crossed the border, much less carried out activities related to minefields or similar tasks.

The Honduran Army has not even mobilized significant contingents to the border, despite the constant aggression and threats by the Marxist military regime, Santamaria said. He added: Vigilance was not even increased after the Sandinist murder of the two U.S. journalists, Dial Torgerson and Richard Cross, since Honduras seeks peace and does not want, as Nicaragua does, to fill the sensitive border zone with weapons and men.

According to the official in charge of the Honduran Government's international press office, the incursions charged by Managua's Interior Ministry exist only in the imagination of the Cuban experts in propaganda and misinformation, who can no longer find arguments to continue their discredited campaign of lies against Honduran democracy, which will prevail despite threats, slander, and aggression because it is the fruit of the people's will freely expressed at the polls.

NICARAGUA

'SOMOZIST' GROUP CLASHES WITH EPS, WITHDRAWS

PA291734 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has reported that on 26 June a counterrevolutionary unit from Honduras made up of about 70 Somozist mercenaries entered national territory through the (Los Jobitos) area, 1.7 km northwest of Santo Tomas del Nance in Chinandega Department. After destroying an electric power transformer in (Los Jobitos), the counterrevolutionaries withdrew in the direction of Honduran territory over the Guasaula River.

The same Somozist group later clashed with a Sandinist People's Army (EPS] patrol for about 2 hours. The counterrevolutionaries were supported by artillery fire from Honduran Army units stationed in their own territory. No EPS casualties were reported.

This new operation against Nicarague by the Honduran Army and its Somozist allies again shows the Honduran Army's unlimited support for the criminal former guardsmen as part of the U.S Government's strategy to destroy Nicaragua's national sovereignty and independence and the Sandinist revolution.

FDN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES 'BIG OFFENSIVE' FOR JULY

PA292022 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1606 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Jun (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today announced in Tegucigalpa that it will launch a big military and diplomatic offensive throughout Nicaragua and the world in July.

The FDN spokesman who made the announcement in Tegucigalpa is Edgard Chamorro Coronel, one of the members of the FDN directorate, who asserted that the main objective is to raise a "general insurrection" in Nicaragua.

Chamorro Coronel pointed out that contacts are being made with all urban and rural subversive cells operating in Nicaragua. These cells will be furnished with arms and supplies so that, when the time comes, they can hurl themselves into an open and general struggle in the country and in the cities.

According to Chamorro Coronel, contacts are being made with Steadman Fagoth Muller, who leads an important military force of Sumos, Ramas, and Miskito Indians from the Misurasata Indian organization, which operates on the Nicaraguan Atlantic side.

Chamorro Coronel said: "We are going to coordinate military actions so that the insurrection will burst throughout Nicaragua before 19 July, and the anniversary of the Sandinist victory will mark the beginning of its defeat."

Chamorro Coronel regretted that the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, (ARDE) led by Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, "has had to withdraw from the armed struggle for the moment."

He indicated that he confidently hopes "Pastora will overcome his difficulties and will return to the armed struggle soon."

He explained that the main objective of the diplomatic offensive is to reopen the 17th OAS consultation meeting which was suspended on 23 March 1970. At that meeting the bases for the ousting of Anastasio Somoza's regime in Nicaragua were established.

Chamorro Coronel indicated that at that time the final change of the Somozist regime was being discussed. This regime would be replaced by a democratic government, the product of free elections with the participation of all sectors. This government would be further characterized by respect for freedom of expression, human rights, and other violated liberties.

According to the opposition leader, the Sandinists' calling for elections in 1985 "is nothing more than an aggression against Nicaraguans, who have no leaders to vote for in the country, since all of them left the country after their freedom and their lives were no longer guaranteed."

EDEN PASTORA INTERVIEWED IN COSTA RICA

PA291605 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Commander Eden Pastora has made a statement to Radio Reloj in Costa Rica. The monitoring system of Voice of Sandino, which is integrated into the informative system of the Sandino Revolutionary Front, monitored the interview that Radio Reloj obtained from Eden Pastora, commander in chief of the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] armed forces, through ARDE's communications systems, in the mountains of southern Nicaragua.

Commander Cero said that the struggle continues and that although he decreed a momentary ceasefire, it has not taken place because the interventionist army has attacked our positions. Asked whether he would request political asylum in Costa Rica, he answered that he has never considered that possibility. We will die here first beside our peasants, he said. He added that the appeal made to the democratic governments and peoples is already having positive effects. Here is the interview that Commander Pastora granted to Radio Reloj's William Cespedes (?from Ventas):

[Begin recording in progress] ... (?circumstances) of the war, (?of) the liberation struggle [words indistinct] 30 minutes ago we clashed with two patrols. One of the clashes took place here [words indistinct] The people of San Juan del Norte were fleeing a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] patrol (?led) by Cubans pursuing the companeros.

The ARDE patrols had to defend those citizens. A clash ensued. Five EPS troops were killed and one wounded. We were lucky not to suffer any casualties. We will soon be able to [words indistinct] weapons we have recovered [words indistinct] names of the injured and the dead. Over.

[Cespedes] Your decision to resume activities in the next few hours has been announced. Robelo, your companero within ARDE, has announced that it is possible to expect military and economic aid in the next few hours. We understand that some aid has already been received from Mexicans and Venezuelans.

[Pastora] That is right. The appeal for help, the pause that we had announced if we did not find help, has, thanks to God, touched the hearts of the democrats, who have now offered to help us. The pause that we announced [words indistinct] to ask for help from the democratic and nationalist forces in Mexico [words indistinct] until the appeal reached all democrats [words indistinct]

[Cespedes] You also complained that certain international political groups were interested in hindering the armed struggle waged by the democratic groups to overthrow the Nicaraguan regime. What are those groups?

[Pastora] The ultrarightist armed forces [words indistinct] revolutionary advance [words indistinct] social, political, economic works, anything that smacks of revolution, anything that benefits our peasants and our workers, is communism to them. They are (?troglodytes), who live in the McCarthy days back in the fifties. They do not trust those of us (?who believe in) a democratic regime. They think that it (?depends) on the KOB, or is a [word indistinct] move by the Cubans, etc. [words indistinct] Some accuse us of being allies of the CIA; others accuse us of being Reagan's spokesmen, of betraying the revolution. We are Sandinists, we are revolutionaries. Certain very powerful rightwing forces have asked us [words indistinct] democratic forces in the world. Over.

[Cespedes] A week after you announced a strategic stop to evaluate the situation, are you now in a position to assert that you will be able to maintain a sustained war?

[Pastora] Well, from what I have learned, from what I have been told [words indistinct] great confusion, for they took the stop to mean my withdrawal from the struggle. There was a great confusion. [passage indistinct] Over.

[Cespedes] [Words indistinct] your forces has come to an end. what zones do you currently control in southern Nicaragua?

[Pastora] We control the area from the Punta Gorda River to the area near [words indistinct] around Las Torres Hill. We control Carlos Fonseca Amador up to [name indistinct] the northernmost part of [words indistinct] around the lake. (?If we come around) the lake area, we control a distance of up to (?6) km before reaching [passage indistinct] Over.

[Cespedes] Commander Pastora, what is your message to the Nicaraguan people and to the world's democrats?

[Pastora] The Nicaraguan people have always given us their support and they continue to support us. All Nicaraguan workers and peasants are demanding weapons from us. They help us, serve as our guides, and feed us. The support we get from the people in Nicaragua is first-rate.

We have that support and that worries many rightwing forces. To the Nicaraguan people we say: Wait for us [words indistinct] stand up and resist, and fight intervention. To the world, we say [words indistinct] because the struggle is hard. We are fighting the Cubans, we are fighting intervention [words indistinct] U.S. intervention. To the Costa Rican people, my eternal gratitude for the aid received in the past and the aid they are currently giving us. The Costa Rican people have demonstrated [passage indistinct]

[Cespedes] Finally, President Monge announced yesterday that neither you nor any of the men fighting beside you would be granted asylum in Costa Rica again. Have you thought about returning to this country?

[Pastora] [Words indistinct] Costa Rica is my second homeland (?and I will return) someday, but never as an exile. I'd rather die fighting here in the mountains [words indistinct] I have never (?thought about going back as) a political exile. We will stay here fighting until we either win or die, as we (?say [words indistinct] Over. [end recording]

HAVANA CITES FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

PA282006 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged that Honduran Army troops and former Somozist guards have been entering Nicaragua territory to defuse defensive mine fields. The ministry alerted the international community about the seriousness and the consequences that this open and provocative violation of national sovereignty could have.

A communique issued last night in Managua states that the Sandinist People's Army placed mines in the Teotecacinte border area to slow down, as much as possible, the aggressions and attacks from Honduras. The communiqe notes that the Honduran and Somozist troops are trying to weaken this Nicaraguan defensive line.

The Sandinist government cautions that despite the seriousness of these actions and being aware of the fact that the enemies of peace are looking for a pretext to launch an open war against Nicaragua, it has ordered the armed forces defending the northern border not to fall in the trap of the provocations.

It has also been reported that the Managua anti-Somozist Tribunal has sentenced counter-revolutionary Freddy Bruno Herrera Perez to 16 years in prison and ordered the confiscation of his property. Herrera thus becomes the first to be punished under the law on public security and order, which went into effect in April.